CLAIMS

[0044] What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

a hardware component; and

a firmware component coupled to said hardware component and able to establish a noise level in a chip.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a receiver of said chip.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a transmitter of said chip.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said hardware comprises:

at least one digital to analog converter;

at least one comparator able to receive output of said converter;

at least one register able to be read by said firmware; and

at least one register able to be written to by said firmware.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said firmware comprises:

an approximator; and

a fine tuner able to fine tune the approximation of said approximator.

6. A method comprising

approximating a first noise level in an individual chip; and

fine tuning said first noise level to produce a second noise level.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said approximating comprises:

determining said first noise level according to a hardware result.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein said fine tuning comprises:

determining said second noise level according to a hardware result.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein said approximating comprises:

reading from a noise event counter register; and

writing to a noise floor register.

10. A method according to claim 6, wherein said fine tuning comprises:

reading from a noise register; and

writing to a noise floor register.

11. A method comprising:

using a firmware solution to compensate for a hardware problem in a chip of a noise level with a high standard deviation.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said firmware solution is able to reduce energy consumption of a chip.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said firmware solution is able to reduce a space requirement of a hardware solution.

14. A system comprising:

a card; and

a chip attached to said card, said chip comprising:

a hardware component; and

a firmware component coupled to said hardware component and able to establish a noise level in said chip.

15. A system according to claim 14, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a receiver of said chip.

16.A system according to claim 14, wherein said noise level is a noise level of a transmitter of said chip.

17.A home phone networking system comprising:

two or more computers each having a chip comprising:

a hardware component; and

a firmware component coupled to said hardware component and able to establish a noise level in said chip.

18.A system according to claim 17, further comprising:

one or more peripheral devices coupled to at least one of said computers.